

Among the foundations investing substantially in voter registration and turnout programs likely to benefit Democrats are the Proteus Fund, which, in addition to direct grants, set up the Voter Engagement Donor Network in 2003 as an information service to 130 other foundations and individual donors; the Pew Charitable Trusts; and America's Families United, which was created in 2003 to channel about \$15 million to voter registration and turnout groups. Most of these foundations voluntarily identify the groups to which they make grants on their Web sites.

One of the best-funded organizations is Project Vote, a 501c (3) group that has an \$18 million fundraising goal and had raised, as of early September, \$13.2 million in tax-deductible contributions. Similar work in registering and turning out urban voters, especially minorities, is being conducted by USAction Education Fund, the 501c (3) arm of USAction. Board members for America's Families United include not only Pope, but also Dennis Rivera, president of New York Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union and a major figure in Democratic politics, and William Lynch Jr., who served as board secretary until he recently became deputy manager of the Kerry campaign.

The close connection between partisan activists and 501c groups is equally clear among conservative groups. Benjamin L. Ginsberg has been a lawyer for the Bush campaign, the Republican National Committee, Progress for America and the Swift Boat Veterans (both 527s) and Americans for Job Security, a 501c (4). Ginsberg was forced to resign as chief outside counsel to the Bush campaign during a controversy over his simultaneous involvement with the Swift Boat group. But he is one of the few activists whose involvement in multiple groups has come under scrutiny.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING THOMAS G. LYONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is fortuitous for the Presiding Officer to be presiding because I know of his background, and I am speaking today of a man who just passed away in Illinois who is a great friend of mine. His name is Tom Lyons, a former State senator and chairman of the Democratic Party of Cook County. If you have ever attended an Irish wake—and I bet you have—there is a passionate combination of sadness and celebration.

In Chicago, such a wake is being held for a good and courageous man.

Thomas G. Lyons died last Friday at the age of 75 after a months-long struggle against serious illness.

Mr. Lyons served for the last 17 years as chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party. That was only one small chapter in an otherwise long, interesting and amazing life story.

As a young man, he served as an Army Ranger and a Chicago police officer.

In 1957, he earned a law degree and spent the next several years working first in the Cook County assessor's office, and then in the Illinois Attorneys General office.

In 1964, a time of great change, Tom Lyons was elected to represent northwest Chicago in the Illinois General Assembly.

The following year, he was tapped to serve in the leadership of a State commission studying the need for a new Illinois State constitution. He later served as vice president of the convention that drafted Illinois's current State constitution.

The preamble to that document lays out a series of high and noble aims of government. It reads, and I quote:

We, the people of the state of Illinois—grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He has permitted us to enjoy and seeking his blessings upon our endeavors—in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people; maintain a representative and orderly government; eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal, social and economic justice; provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty for ourselves and our posterity—do ordain and establish this constitution for the state of Illinois.

Those same high and noble goals—“to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people; . . . eliminate poverty and inequality; . . . assure legal, social and economic justice; . . . and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty for ourselves and our posterity”—were the standards to which Tom Lyons held himself in his public service.

A story in Sunday's Chicago Sun Times last Sunday says a lot about the kind of man he was.

In the 1950s, Tom Lyons was a young soldier on his way to Fort Benning, GA. It was his first trip to the South.

As he walked through a bus station, he was shocked to see one restroom for Whites and another for Blacks. His family said he decided to take a stand—and used the “colored” bathroom.

His son Frank said:

He got into it with the local law enforcement. But he wanted to make a statement. It's who he was as a person.

His family and friends say it was that willingness to stand up for everyone—no matter their race, class or status—that best embodies Mr. Lyons' legacy.

It was also that willingness to treat everyone equally, with dignity, which

nearly cost Tom Lyons his political career four decades ago.

In 1963, the year before Tom Lyons was elected to the Illinois State Senate, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance banning restrictive covenants and other discriminatory real estate practices that were used to maintain racial segregation in Chicago. But the ordinance was routinely ignored.

In January 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. moved to what he called a “slum apartment” on the West Side of Chicago. That summer, he held a series of “open housing” marches in all-White neighborhoods in the city and suburbs. The demonstrations produced a furor and focused national and international attention on the problem of housing discrimination, not just in Chicago, but in America.

By fall, the issue of housing discrimination became the most volatile issue of the campaign. It helped defeat one of the most courageous men who ever served in this Senate, a man Dr. King called “the greatest of all senators,” my mentor, Paul Douglas.

Family and friends warned Tom Lyons that his support for a State fair housing law that year could cost him his seat in the General Assembly. But he voted for the bill anyway—and lost his re-election bid.

Having lost, he didn't give up. He won his seat back 4 years later.

Chicago politics is famously rough and tumble, but Tom Lyons was famous for trying to calm tempers and soothe old wounds by gathering people around the piano to sing great old songs and World War II ballads. He loved politics, not because of what it could do for him but what it allowed him to do for others. That is why his wake this evening will be filled with sadness and with celebration and why Tom Lyons will also be missed in Chicago and throughout our State.

As a young attorney serving in the Illinois State Legislature as parliamentarian for 14 years, I came to know a lot of State senators. There remain many fine men and women who serve in that body. I was learning my earliest chapters of Illinois politics as I watched them in action.

I remember Tom Lyons, a good legislator, conscientious man, a man of principle, with a great sense of humor, who would put an arm around your shoulder and say: Let's go have a beer and sing a song. He was just that kind of guy. His life was a good life, a life of public service and a life of giving to many others. I was lucky to be one of his friends and lucky to be one of the beneficiaries of his good will.

I ask the Members of the Senate to join me in extending our condolences to Tom's wife Ruth; their sons, Thomas and Frank; their daughters, Alexandra and Rachel; and Tom's eight grandchildren.

INTERDICTION OF DRUG SUPPLY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I just returned from a trip to